

THE PLOTTER

CLACKAMAS COUNTY AREA T/S
USERS GROUP
NEWS LETTER

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VOLUME 7

* *

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FEBRUARY 1989

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MEETING

The FEBRUARY meeting will be:

on: FRI., FEBRUARY 10, 1989

meeting room open at: 7:00 P.M.

in: COMMUNITY ROOM

FAR WEST FEDERAL S & L

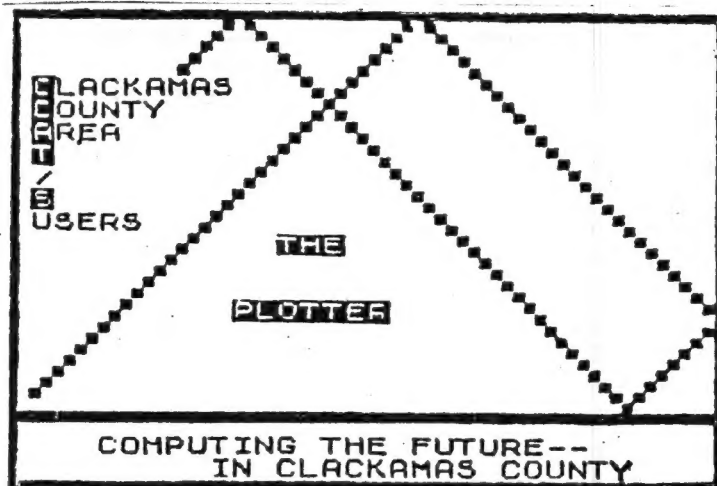
OREGON CITY SHOPPING CENTER

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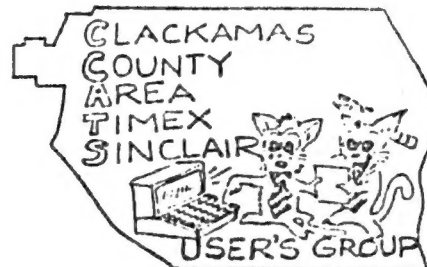
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SOAP BOX

I would like to thank all of our "hard-core" members for their continued support of CCAT/S and their devotion to our beloved Timex/Sinclair computers. We have fared far better than many T/S users and user groups. It is heartening to see the solid attendance and support our group continues to receive from our membership. One of the major reasons we are a such strong user group, is the support we give each other by sharing our enthusiasm for and experiences with our T/S computers. To help insure a strong future for our group, we need to extend our helping hands to our newer members and "guests". It has been so rare recently to see new faces amongst our midsts that we sometimes tend to leave our new visitors and members out of our "family circle". I know this is not intentional, but we must make every effort to make our new T/S users feel comfortable and at home. We need to take a few minutes and reflect on where we were six or seven years ago (yes, it has been at least that long for some of us) and use our experience to help our new users, not overwhelm them.

» » »



A reminder to old members and a pointer to our new members -- DON'T FORGET THE GROUP'S LIBRARY! There is a wealth of information and programs available for all of our computers hiding in our library. Magazines, books, tapes, newsletters are gathering dust (and taking up space) in our library. This treasure is kept at RMG Enterprises, 1419-1/2 7th St., Oregon City. Drop by and CHECK IT OUT.

As you may recall, the Public Domain Library project started by our neighboring group VISTA, will soon become a part of the SNUG PD library. Tim Ward will be the T/S 1000 librarian. They already have 5 T/S 1000 tapes compiled (60 minutes each) and are offering them for \$4.00 a piece. All of the reports I have heard about the 1000 tapes have been raves. Tim Ward has just announced that they have finished compiling 2 T/S 2068 tapes (60 minutes each) and are offering them for \$4.00 each. Tim Ward will be taking orders for either the 1000 or 2068 tapes through February 24. Make checks payable to Tim Ward and send your order to: Timex/Sinclair Public Domain Library, c/o Tim Ward, 5142-D Ginkgo, Dr. SW., Tacoma, WA 98439. If the 2068 tapes are at all like the 1000 tapes, this is a steal.

The year has only just begun and I feel that it promises to be a Very Good Year for our group, because we have a dedicated bunch of members!

Sinclairly -- Michael E. Carver

SECRETARY'S SECRETS

CCATS MEETING OF 1-13-89

Meeting was called to order by Mike Carver at 8:10 PM. The meeting was delayed so that we could watch the video program that Rod Gowan brought. It was from a series that shows the progress made in the area of storage and retrieval of data.

Rod Gowan congratulated the new officers.

Mike introduced Dave Nielsen to the group. Dave has a T/S 1000.

Dick asked if the dinner meeting was to be in June or May. After a general discussion it was decided that there would be a dinner on our regular meeting night in May held at Norths on McLoughlin Blvd, the time to be 7:00 PM. Bob Evans will make the reservations. There will be about 30 people at the dinner.

Mike then asked about having cards printed and distributed to various book stores and bulletin boards. After a general discussion it was decided that Tim would do the art work and Rod would give him the original CCATS logo to work into the cards

The subject of membership dues was brought up again and everyone was reminded that they are due by no later than March. Come on pay up! Dick mentioned that unless the dues are paid you will not receive the newsletter.

After the mention of our having too many minor discussions during the regular business meetings it was decided that we should have a short business meeting and then have the remaining time for asking for help on our pet projects or problems. It was agreed that we should adhere to Roberts rule of order and then moved and seconded to have Rod and Dick rewrite the by-laws. This will give us all a better chance to be heard and perhaps give new members a better chance to ask questions, and find out how we share ideas and reference materials.

Betty Schaffler, Secretary

LARKEN LINES

by: ROD GOWAN

MAXCOMM:-

Should be in stock at RMG by the time you read this. At \$24.95 plus shipping, it should be a real bargain for all of those who are using the Larken system and want a 1200 bps terminal program. For more information, just call or write RMG.

If you have something you would like to see published in this column, PLEASE, let us know! If you have a question regarding the operation of your LKDOS system, drop me a note. If you have found a quick way to do something or have a tip for LKDOS users, SEND IT IN! We will do our best to research and reply to all questions and print the replies as space permits. You may even find your info incorporated into a new planned book for LKDOS users. We will keep you posted on this.

Nothing else this month. Will try to have something worked up for next time.

See you here later!

QL CARTRIDGE BACKUP PROGRAM

BY Michael E. Carver

The following simple BASIC program (which was I think came from a back issue of ZX Computing) is a simple way to make a Backup copy of a micro-cartridge. You must have the original in MDV1_ and an already formatted cartridge in MDV2_.

```

1000 REMark ***** cartridge back
up copier *****
1010 CLS
1020 PRINT "This program will co
py the entire contents of one ca
rtridge"
1030 PRINT "onto another."
1040 PRINT: PRINT "Place ORIGINA
L cartride in mdv1_"\"Place for
matted cartride in mdv2_"
1050 PRINT\"Press any key to st
art. . ."
1060 z$=INKEY$(-1): CLS
1070 gp$=" "
2000 OPEN_NEW #3, mdv2_temp_file
2010 DIR #3,mdv1_: CLOSE #3
2020 OPEN_IN #3,mdv2_temp_file
2030 INPUT #3,a$;a$
2040 PRINT\ "-- COPYING. . . .\"
\
2050 REPEAT loop
2060 IF EOF (#3) THEN EXIT loo
P
2070 INPUT #3,a$
2080 PRINT gp$&a$
2090 COPY "mdv1_"&a$ TO "mdv2_
"&a$
2100 END REPEAT loop
2110 CLOSE #3
2120 DELETE mdv2_temp_file

```

The above program listing was imported into Quill. To format the file to fit within the column width of the Plotter I used the following BASIC program to save a "text" file. This file is then imported into Quill using Command II Files-Import. It is important to choose the import by Line option. To use the following short program input the name of the file to be converted and saved (it is important to include the device name, i.e., *mdv1_backup_bas* & *mdv2_backup_txt*). You are then asked to input the number of characters per column (i.e., 32). One last note -- The name you specify for the text version must not contain more than 8 characters, excluding the device and extension "_txt", or Quill will not recognize it as a valid Quill file.

```

200 DEFine PROCedure basic2text
210 INPUT "File name to be conv
erted to Text file ";read$
220 INPUT "To be save as ";save
$
230 INPUT "Number of columns ";
column
240 OPEN_IN #7,read$
250 OPEN_NEW #8,save$
260 REPEAT convert
270 IF EOF(#7) THEN EXIT conv
ert
280 INPUT #7,line$
290 REPEAT cut
300 IF LEN(line$)>column
310 PRINT #8," ";line$(1 TO
column)
320 line$=line$(column+1 TO
)
330 END IF
340 IF LEN(line$)<=column
350 PRINT #8," ";line$
360 EXIT cut
370 END IF
380 END REPEAT cut
390 END REPEAT convert
400 CLOSE #7: CLOSE #8
410 END DEFine basic2text

```

BITS & BYTES

by: ROD GOWEN

Heard any TS related news lately? Did you get any information in the mail from other users, user groups, or vendors that may be of interest to our readers? If so, why not share it with us? We need all of the help

that we can get. Please send any info that you might have to: Rod Gowen, C/O CCAT/S, 1419 1/2 7th Street, Oregon City, OR 97045, or phone in at: 503/655-7484, NOON- 10 PM weekdays. I know that the entire user group will appreciate it!

EAST COAST FEST-

is set for the first weekend in May in a suburb of Baltimore, MD. The host group is CATS, Capitol Area TS users. We are in a position to know how they feel and we want to extend best wishes and good luck in the endeavor. We do not want to cast a pessimistic pall over the idea of the computer fest, but, in our opinion, this will more than likely be the last of the TS fest/fairs that we will see UNLESS this is a TERRIFIC success!

TIME DESIGNS MAGAZINE-

IS STILL IN BUSINESS! We are still getting calls and letters asking about the reasons for the fact that they have not yet received the SEP/OCT issue! it seems that even if they call TDM, they are getting a recorded message that is over 2 months old and are not getting a response to their calls. These folks are then calling RMG to check. Tim Woods was at our last meeting and assured us that the mag was in the mail, but, due to the speed of 4th class book rate, it takes 4-6 weeks to get to the East coast and it was mailed near the 15th of December. KEEP THE FAITH! IT WILL ARRIVE!

REMEMBER WHEN BBS-

is receiving quite a few callers from the ranks of TSers. After a rocky start with a local nitwit calling up and wiping out the hard drive a couple of times, additional security has been added and it now seems very secure, so we invite you to call and make use of the BBS. The phone is: 503/652-5803 24hrs, 8/1/N. It is an easy one to use. We are asking that if you wish to use it on a regular basis, send a \$10 donation to the BBS. Address can be gotten on the BBS.

NEW OFFICERS-

have been "installed". We are set for another year. Congratulations to all of our elected officers:

MIKE CARVER	CHAIRMAN
MERLUN RAYMOND	VICE-CHAIRMAN
BETTY SCHAFFLER	SECRETARY

RMG ENTERPRISES-

has received the entire inventory from E-Z KEY and if you are interested in obtaining a list, just send a legal sized SASE and they will send you a complete list with prices of the items that E-Z KEY had left.

CCAT/S DINNER MEETING-

has been set for the MAY meeting night. We will be meeting at Norths Chuck Wagon on McLoughlin Blvd. in Milwaukie. Time is set for 7:00 PM and you are invited to bring your spouse. We think that it will be kind of nice for a change and it may become an annual or even semi-annual event. Come and ENJOY! New members are invited. Bring a TS friend.

NEW DTP!-

for your 2068/Larken with Spectrum mode. The new s/w is called WORDMASTER and is a word processor with 2 add-ons that turn it into a full blown DTP package: HEADLINER and TYPELINER add fonts, columnizing, graphics, and headlines to the package. RMG is looking into stocking this package. At the moment it is available from England. There is a sample of what it can do in the current issue of ZX-APPEAL newsletter.

MS-DOS FOR THE QL-

will be available at RMG and other QL dealers VERY soon! You will now be able to run all of the public domain and shareware software on your QL. It comes from DIGITAL PRECISION and is available in 2 versions, with and without DOS. For pricing and specs, send a SASE (legal) to RMG ENTERPRISES, 1419 1/2 7th STREET, OREGON CITY, OR 97045.

2068 LARGE Printer Screen Dump

As many of you will recall, prior to moving from Portland in May, I was teaching MC to several CCATS members, at the MC SIG. I have not heard but, I hope that SIG did not die with my departure.

The last project we worked on is the topic of this article. I had hoped that one the members of the MC SIG would submit and explain this program for the Plotter readers. As 6 months have elapsed and that has not happened, I felt the rest of the CCATS group should have this knowledge, so here it is!

Briefly, we needed a goal to reach for and a tangible program to study. By consensus of the group, we elected to do something visual for immediate feedback and a screen dump routine was decided upon as no one felt any of the commercial programs did an adequate job.

As presented here, this program is bug-free but needed some fine tuning when I left. As I do not know what has happened since May, I am presenting the program as we left it in the last class. I hope one of the MC SIG members (Jack, Ken, Lynn, Tom?) will follow-up and tell you what refinements were added.

The following code was written to explain many instructions and techniques. It is written assuming that you are using an Epson compatible dot-matrix printer and that your printer interface is mapped to the standard port, 7Fh. The comments should make adjustment for your hardware easy to accomplish. The printer set-up codes are stored at labels ESCK and ESCA.

The technique used is to move each character block of pixel data to a buffer for manipulation, as the printer needs to 'see' the data differently. The left-most bit of each pixel row is rotated into the Carry flag and then in to A, until all eight pixel rows of data, from each character block, are processed. Then the processed data is sent to the printer. It was not necessary to transfer the data to a buffer however, this made the operation easier to understand and demonstrated another technique.

The printer is sent 256 bytes of the 8 pixel row high by 1 bit wide data which comprises one screen row of 32 character blocks, then a carriage return is sent to end the row and do a linefeed on the printer. This sequence is repeated until all 24 rows of the screen have been sent to the printer.

There is little else that I can tell you about the routine. The source is well commented and should prove self-explanatory, so have fun and enjoy!

```

;*****
;*
;*                               *
;*                               *
;*                               *
;*                               *
;*                               *
;*                               *
;*****
;
ORG      0FE00h                ;put at top of memory & below UDG's
;
ENTER    CALL GRAFIC           ;initialize printer in graphic mode
        LD HL,4000h            ;get start address of DFile
        LD B,3                 ;initialize counter for # of thirds
ENTER2   LD C,0                ;initialize counter for # of character

```

```

THIRD  PUSH BC                ;blocks in each third of DFile
      LD (STORE),H           ;save the counters on the stack
      LD DE,BUFFER           ;save the DFile character block address
      LD B,8                  ;in our variable
      LD A,(HL)               ;get start address of data buffer
      LD (DE),A               ;initialize counter for # of pixel rows
      INC H                   ;get and move each byte of pixel data
      INC DE                  ;to the data buffer
      DJNZ GETLP              ;adjust pointers
      PUSH BC                 ;count each pixel row as moved
      CALL PROCES              ;save pointers while we process data
      POP BC                  ;and go process it
      LD HL,(STORE)           ;retrieve the pointers
      INC HL                  ;retrieve character block address
      DEC C                   ;adjust character block pointer
      JR NZ,THIRD             ;count each char block as processed
      POP BC                  ;until the third is complete
      DEC B                   ;retrieve # of thirds counter
      RET Z                   ;count each third as completed
      LD DE,2048-256          ;and exit when screen is done
      ADD HL,DE               ;get # of bytes in each third, less
      JR ENTER2               ;amount already counted
                                ;adjust character block pointer to
                                ;point to start of next third
                                ;and loop to dump next third
;
STORE  DEFW 0                 ;variable to store character block
BUFFER DEFS 8                 ;buffer to manipulate pixel data
;
;Process each byte of pixel data from DFile format into dot-matrix
;printer format. DFile is up/down and printer needs in left/right.
PROCES LD C,8                 ;initialize counter for # of
                                ;manipulations needed
PRLP1  LD B,8                 ;initialize counter for # of bytes
      LD HL,BUFFER            ;get start of the data buffer
      XOR A                   ;clear any old data and CARRY
      RLC (HL)                ;rotate bit 7 into CARRY
      RLA                     ;rotate A & put CARRY into bit 0 of A
      INC HL                  ;adjust buffer pointer
      DJNZ PRLP2              ;get bit 7 from each byte
      CALL PRINT               ;send adjusted data to the printer
      DEC C                   ;count each manipulation
      JR NZ,PRLP1             ;loop until all are done
      RET                     ;else, return when finished
;
;Put printer in single density bit-image graphics mode and ready to
;accept one line of graphic data of length 256. Also, set linefeed
;spacing to 7/72" to avoid white space in dump.
;
GRAFIC XOR A                  ;clear line counter, temporarily
      LD (LNCNT),A
      LD HL,ESCK               ;get bit-image graphics mode data
      LD B,7                   ;initialize counter # of bytes of data
GRLOOP LD A,(HL)              ;get each byte of set-up data
      CALL PRINT               ;and send it to the printer
      INC HL                   ;point to next byte of data
      DJNZ GLOOP              ;loop until all have been sent
      XOR A                   ;set the line counter to 256
      LD (LNCNT),A
      RET                     ;printer ready for one line of data

```

;The following table must be customized with the indicated commands
;for your printer.

```
ESCK  DEFB 27,'K',0,1      ;Epson single density bit-image graphics
ESCA  DEFB 27,'A',7        ;Epson 7/72" linefeeds
```

;Send byte in A to printer but, only if the printer is ready and
;adjust the line counter for each byte sent. Exit via the set-up
;routine for bit-image graphics mode.

```
PRINT  PUSH AF              ;save data to be printed on stack
PRTL1  IN A,(7Fh)           ;and check if printer is ready
      CP 0EDh
      JR NZ,PRTL1          ;loop until printer is ready for data
      POP AF               ;then retrieve data from the stack
      OUT (7Fh),A          ;send data to the printer
      LD A,(LNCNT)         ;and count each piece of data sent
      DEC A                ;by adjusting our variable
      LD (LNCNT),A
      RET NZ               ;return unless end of third is reached
      LD A,0Dh             ;else, send carriage return to end the
      OUT (7Fh),A          ;line of data and advance paper
      JR GRAFIC            ;go set-up for more graphics

;
LNCNT  DEFB 0               ;variable to store number of pixel rows
;                               ;to be sent in each line of DFile
;
```

END

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

This issue of THE PLOTTER has several changes decided upon by the Editorial Staff (that's me) in the hopes that the product will be improved visually. Since most of the articles are continued on the first column next page when they are too long to be completed on the one page, a set of pointers is being used to indicate to turn the page for the remainder. Also the "continued from page #-" has been dropped as superfluous. I note that many magazines use this method. It also saves adding this paste-on note. It also adds one line for text. The practice of providing a 5/8 inch margin on the left edge for punching is being continued. UPDATE magazine does this and it is handy for loose leaf binding.

At mailing time we have a good number of paid-up members. In hopes that non-payment was an oversight, a February issue is being sent to the few have become delinquent in payment. We are also maintaining a

nice number of subscribers. I would think that subscribing to a few newsletters would be a great help for TS users who do not have access to a user group organization. We have to give Rod Gowen credit for making the subscriptions available. He makes the sale and I keep record of subscription period, address changes, and mailing out a notice of end of subscription. Also, an expiration date has been added to the mailing label like the magazines do.

I find it interesting to make a contact with a new name now and then. I recall one bit of correspondence with a man in the South Pacific. Never heard from him again. I sent him a lot of information, as did Tim Woods. Odd! In contrast, I sent a rather lengthy letter to Dottie Bundy in Ventura, CA as a kind of "thank you" for using a design she had published in SinWare News. I used it at the G.N.W.C.F. in explaining the procedure for doing printer graphics in contrast with a screen dump. I have received a nice reply--seems

=====

-NOTICE-

she does some very nice screen dump graphics. This also put her in contact with RMG Enterprises with an inquiry about some supplies. I hope we can entice Dottie to send us a program to use as we see few such programs now.

One problem with screen dumps is the inability to eliminate printer non-linear displays (at least I don't know how). Make a test with a large square on the screen and then dump it to the printer. Now measure adjacent sides and see if your large printer produces a symmetrical image. If it does then circles will not come out as ovals. Of course you can use a fudge factor for line drawings but you can't very well when inputting hundreds of points in a graphics program. Does anyone have a suggestion for setting up the printer for graphics that permits overriding the screen dump program? I tried entering the printer codes in direct mode to change the printed width but it didn't take.

Opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of members of the Clackamas County Area T/S User Group. Meeting minutes carry the consensus of members present at meetings. This newsletter nor staff will be held liable for any damage or consequences due to following instructions, or review of products as contained in this newsletter.

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